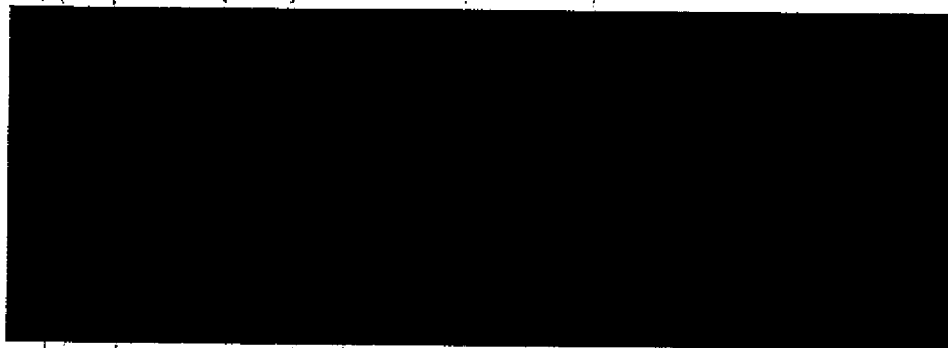


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STAFF NOTES:



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~~SECRET~~Concern about Human Rights in Chile

The UN Human Rights Commission--which opens its 31st session next week in Geneva--will spend a great deal of time discussing the human rights situation in Chile. Chile has been a standing item on the Commission's agenda since the September 1973 Coup. Moreover, in a resolution passed during the recent UN session, the General Assembly requested the Human Rights Commission to continue to study the situation. In addition to the Chilean situation, the meeting will also discuss a report prepared last year by a subgroup of the Commission, which levied accusations--ranging from widespread torture in Brazil to political executions in Uganda--at five countries, including Chile..

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A number of West European countries--joined by the US--have already attempted to head off an expected violent attack on Chile by the Soviets and their allies by drawing up a resolution that they hope will command broad support. While the wording of the resolution has not yet been worked out, the Europeans hope to produce compromise language that would continue the Commission's involvement by sending a fact-finding group to Chile or by considering the reports of already concluded investigations by other groups, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The major objective of the West Europeans in presenting a balanced solution is to gain Chile's acceptance of the proposal. Earlier this month Chilean President Pinochet refused to allow two representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to visit Chile on a similar mission, and the Europeans do not want their resolution to result in a similar Chilean response.

January 27, 1975

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